

# **BISCAYNE BAY REGIONAL RESTORATION COORDINATION TEAM**

Meeting #30

March 12, 2004  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

National Marine Fisheries Service/Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Virginia Key, Florida

## **Report of Proceedings**

### **WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Team Chair, Humberto Alonso, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He announced that he was still awaiting final approval of the Team's requests for additional members from the Working Group and asked members to provide names of commercial and recreational fishing representatives for membership consideration. He announced that former member Lloyd Miller, representative of the Izaak Walton League had returned to the Committee. Everyone welcomed Mr. Miller back to the Team.

#### Members present:

Humberto Alonso, Jr., Chair, South Florida Water Management District  
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Joan Browder, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Rick Clark, Biscayne National Park  
Marsha Colbert, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve  
Nancy Diersing, NOAA, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
Cynthia Guerra, Tropical Audubon Society  
John Hulsey, South Florida Regional Planning Council  
Susan Markley, Department of Environmental Resources Management  
Lloyd Miller, Isaak Walton League  
Rafaela Monchek, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Patrick Pitts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Keith Revell, At Large member

Mr. Alonso then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer.

### **AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES**

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda for the day (Exhibit A) and Guidelines.

All Reports of Proceedings, Exhibits, Team Guidelines and other pertinent information can be found at [www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm), then "Projects", then BBRRCT.

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## **OF DREAMS AND REALITIES: TEAM CHARTER AND OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES**

Team Project Manager, Liz Abbott gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Team charter, mission and vision. She explained the realities and opportunities the Team must recognize in its deliberations. (Exhibit B)

### **OVERARCHING THEMES: AN OPEN DISCUSSION**

The Facilitator then asked the Team: "In light of the previous presentation and the work you have done to date, what does "coordination" mean to this Team?" The members responded as follows:

- 1) Suggest that each representative get acceptance by their constituencies of the Team Vision Statement (support and endorsement).
- 2) Wait until full action plan developed for support/endorsement
- 3) Using an incremental approach is better; do the Vision first
- 4) Go to working group for acceptance/ratification
- 5) Trickle-down will happen when we go to agencies for approval of Action Plan
- 6) "Presence" very important, the more agendas we get on the better
- 7) Influence/education are the same; cities have influence on decision-makers and commission; bring our Vision Statement for approval of all cities; use their influence to assist us
- 8) While we struggle internally the rest of the world is moving ahead – getting the Vision out is good, but we need to react more/quicker
- 9) Do we need to have both an offensive and defensive position?
- 10) Keith Revell's Outline: Coordination means:
  - i. Clearinghouse:
    1. Place where agencies/organizations involved in or affecting the Bay come to hear about what each other are doing to identify gaps, eliminate overlap, and resolve conflicts (O)
    2. Keeper of a master list of tasks to restore Bay, make it accessible, etc. (A)
    3. Master list of funding sources (A)
    4. Bulletin Board – place to send notices of interest and progress (A)
    5. Review of plans and projects for consistency with Action Plan
  - ii. 2) Voice for the Bay:
    1. Place where underrepresented views are heard (I)
    2. Monitor of progress: create and publicize a Bay report card (I) (A)
    3. Maintain visibility of the Bay among agencies and policymakers and public (O)
    4. Alarm: highlight and publicize threats to Bay (O)
    5. Endorser of plans and projects (O)
  - iii. 3) Priority Setter:
    1. Highlight issues that need action/attention or are falling through the cracks (O)

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2. Direct money toward specific projects through Working Group
  3. Set objectives for the Bay and mobilize support
  4. Make general policy recommendations
  5. Make recommendations/requests to agencies on policies and programs
- iv. Mobilizer/Advocate:
1. Creating and organizing a constituency for specific policies, programs, projects
  2. Lobby agencies/officials
- 11) While we develop Action Plan, have time in monthly meetings for pressing views on issues currently happening
  - 12) Can our Vision say "Biscayne Bay"? (*Change Vision Statement*)
  - 13) Should not discuss individual permits, etc. when we look at current issues
  - 14) Limits on Team by Charter means we have to be careful – more important to diligently work on our Goals/Objectives/Actions
  - 15) This group (under existing authority) needs to be more outspoken – primarily through the action plan
  - 16) Vision ratified by Working Group gives approval and begins influence – then individual members could use it at specific events
  - 17) Add a Member Forum on each agenda
  - 18) FACA – Federal Advisory Committees Act (Federal version of Sunshine Law) – (*short presentation or outline to Team at future meeting*)
  - 19) Request presentation by Dr. Grace Johns
  - 20) How do we get our influence out there through the Working Group?
  - 21) Are the products of this group owned by this group, or can other groups use them? – Some members can advocate, others cannot due to specific agency restrictions
  - 22) Open discussion of issues is main power of this group – this is our main avenue of influence – how do we make this information accessible?
  - 23) Once Vision Statement is ratified – exactly what can each member of Team do?
  - 24) Presentation at next meeting of what can be taken outside Team by members (overview, legal, etc.)
  - 25) Adoption of the vision by Working Group becomes a measure against which to use
  - 26) Keith's framework for coordination is a big task
  - 27) Communication is central key

Additional comments made by Members that were more general were:

1. In prelude/intro: "In this document, when we refer to 'the Bay' we mean Biscayne Bay."
2. Should education be an overarching theme?

### **SMALL GROUP WORK: OVERARCHING THEMES- OBJECTIVES DEVELOPMENT**

The Team decided to work as a full group on the Objectives for the overarching theme of Coordination. The results of that work are contained on the chart attached as Exhibit C.

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For this reason, there was no necessity for small group reports as the Team had worked together as a whole for the afternoon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no outside public present and no comment was made.

The meeting was adjourned.

**MEMBER COMMENT CARDS:**

*“PUH-LEASE, no more copies of the consensus rules and guidelines for discussion; I need a separate notebook for just the zillions of copies of these documents I already have!”*

*-Anonymous*

*“Dr. Grace Johns, Project Manager with Hazen and Sawyer is speaking about the Biscayne Bay Economic Study to public groups. Please invite her to speak with us. If there are other groups that received funding (i.e. Biscayne Bay Environmental Education Alliance), it would be great to hear from them too!!”*

*-Marsha Colbert, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve*

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